

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
a shaft having a gripping end and a distal end remote from said gripping end; and
a shaper disposed at the distal end, said shaper including:
a scoop, coupled to a the distal end of the shaft at an attachment location, including a
first cavity for collecting and holding a bolus of a compressible medium, the compressible
medium retaining a post-compressed shape; and
a former including a second cavity cooperating with the first cavity, coupled to the scoop
proximate the attachment location and mating with the scoop, for cooperating with the scoop for
molding and compressing the bolus into a generally spherical ball retained within the ~~scoop~~
shaper.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the compressible medium is snow.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the scoop and the former include
opposing sections of a generally spherical shell.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the former includes an open position
relative to the scoop and a closed position relative to the scoop, the former molding the bolus in the
closed position.
5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said closed position substantially
juxtaposes said opposing sections of said shell.
6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein said closed position mates said
opposing sections of said shell.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~5.~~ The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the former is biased to the open position.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~6.~~ The apparatus of ~~claim 5~~ claim 7 wherein the former is operable to the closed position by one-handed manipulation of a proximal end of the shaft.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~7.~~ The apparatus of ~~claim 5~~ claim 7 further comprising a latching mechanism, coupled to said former, for inhibiting said former from returning to said open position.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~8.~~ ~~7~~The apparatus of ~~claim 7~~ claim 9 further comprising a release, coupled to said ~~late~~latching mechanism and operable from said gripping end, for disengaging said latching mechanism and removing said inhibition of said former.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~9.~~ The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the shaft is arched.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~10.~~ The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the scoop is oriented relative to the shaft such that the generally spherical ball is launchable from the scoop by swinging the shaft through an arc.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~11.~~ The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the shaft includes a ski pole.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~12.~~ The apparatus of ~~claim 11~~ claim 13 wherein ski pole includes a snow basket on the first distal end.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~13.~~ The apparatus of ~~claim 12~~ claim 14 wherein the scoop is part of the snow basket.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~14.~~ The apparatus of ~~claim 13~~ claim 15 wherein the scoop is part of the former.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~15.~~ The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said shaft and said scoop are coupled together using a mating system.

18. (Currently Amended) ~~16.~~ The apparatus of ~~claim 15~~ claim 17 wherein said mating system includes a threaded member coupled to one of said shaft and said scoop and a complementary member coupled to one of said shaft and said scoop.

19. (Withdrawn) (Originally numbered 17)

20. (Withdrawn) (Originally numbered 18)

21. (Withdrawn) (Originally numbered 19)

22. (Withdrawn) (Originally numbered 20)

23. (Currently Amended) ~~21.~~ An apparatus, comprising:
a shaft;
a scoop, coupled to a distal end of ~~the said shaft~~ at an attachment location, for collecting and holding an object;
a trapper, coupled to said scoop at said attachment location and mating with said scoop, for retaining said object within the scoop when in a closed position, said trapper biased to an open position wherein said object may be collected and/or released; and
a latching mechanism, coupled to said trapper, for inhibiting said trapper from returning to said open position.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~22.~~ The apparatus of ~~claim 21~~ claim 23 further comprising a release, coupled to said latching mechanism and proximate to a proximal end of said shaft, for remotely disengaging said latching mechanism and removing said inhibition of said trapper.

25. (NEW) An apparatus, comprising:
a shaft having a proximal end for gripping by a user during operation and a distal end remote from said proximal end; and
a forming system disposed at said distal end at an attachment location, said forming system including:

a first forming element, coupled to said shaft at said attachment location, having a first cavity for collecting and shaping a bolus of snow; and

a second forming element, moveably coupled to said shaft proximate said attachment location, having a second cavity mating with said first cavity for cooperatively shaping said bolus of snow into a generally spherical ball.

26. (New) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein said first forming element includes an open position relative to said second forming element and a closed position relative to said second forming element, said forming system molding said bolus in said closed position.

27. (New) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said closed position substantially juxtaposes said opposing sections of said shell.

28. (New) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein said cavities of said forming elements define opposing portions of a three-dimensional generally spherical object and wherein said closed position mates said opposing sections of said object.

29. (New) The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the forming system is biased to the open position.

30. (New) The apparatus of claim 29 wherein the forming system is operable to the closed position by one-handed manipulation of said proximal end of the shaft.

31. (New) The apparatus of claim 29 further comprising a latching mechanism, coupled to said forming system, for inhibiting said forming system from returning to said open position.

32. (New) The apparatus of claim 31 further comprising a release, coupled to said latching mechanism and operable from said proximal end, for disengaging said latching mechanism and removing said inhibition of said forming system.

33. (New) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the shaft is arched.

34. (New) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the scoop is oriented relative to the shaft such that the generally spherical ball is launchable from the scoop by swinging the shaft through an arc.

35. (NEW) A snowball making apparatus, comprising:
a shaft having a gripping end and a distal end remote from said gripping end; and
a shaper, disposed at said distal end, said shaper including a pair of opposing forming elements coupled to said distal end for relative pivotal motion between them, said forming elements each including a cavity for collecting and shaping a bolus of snow into a generally spherical shape.

36. (NEW) A snowball making apparatus, comprising:
a shaft having a gripping end and a distal end remote from said gripping end; and
a shaper, disposed at said distal end, said shaper including a pair of opposing forming elements attached to said distal end for relative pivotal motion between them, said forming elements each including a cavity for collecting and shaping a bolus of snow into a generally spherical shape.